

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method comprising:
 - 2 processing data corresponding to a facsimile transmission with a facsimile device
 - 3 coupled to a network;
 - 4 determining an operating mode of the facsimile device;
 - 5 if the facsimile device is operating according to a first automatic mode of operation, then
 - 6 automatically sending over the network, by facsimile, the data corresponding to the facsimile
 - 7 transmission with captured metadata to automatically capture the facsimile transmission; and
 - 8 if the facsimile transmission is operating according to a second manual mode of
 - 9 operation, then automatically sending over the network, by facsimile, data corresponding to the
 - 10 facsimile transmission with metadata selectively captured and optionally modified based upon
 - 11 received external input data.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein processing the facsimile transmission comprises
 - 2 receiving the facsimile transmission through at least one of a scanning interface, a network
 - 3 interface, and a modem interface.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein automatically sending the facsimile transmission
 - 2 comprises:
 - 3 generating, without user intervention, metadata representing attributes of the facsimile
 - 4 transmission;

5 encapsulating, without user intervention, the metadata according to one of a plurality of
6 network encapsulation protocols; and
7 transmitting, without user intervention, the encapsulated metadata to a second device
8 indicated by a capture address.

1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the capture address includes at least one of a network
2 address and an electronic mail address.

1 5. The method of claim 3, wherein transmitting the encapsulated metadata to a second
2 device comprises transmitting the encapsulated metadata to an archiving device.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the received external input data indicates to the facsimile
2 device whether the facsimile device should capture the data corresponding to the facsimile
3 transmission.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the received external input data comprises user specified
2 access control and ownership attributes for the data corresponding to the facsimile transmission.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein automatically sending data corresponding to the
2 facsimile transmission with selectively captured and optically modified metadata comprises:
3 generating metadata based upon the content of the data corresponding to the facsimile
4 transmission and the received external input data;

5 encapsulating the metadata according to one of a plurality of network transfer protocols;
6 and
7 transmitting the encapsulated metadata to a second device indicated by a capture address.

1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein the at least one capture address includes at least one of a
2 network address and an electronic mail address.

1 10. The method of claim 8, wherein transmitting the encapsulated metadata to a second
2 device comprises transmitting the encapsulated metadata to an archiving device.

1 11. The method of claim 8, wherein the metadata is encapsulated according to the Internet
2 fax protocol.

1 12. A machine readable medium having stored thereon a plurality of instructions that, when
2 executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the method of:
3 processing data corresponding to a facsimile transmission with a facsimile device
4 coupled to a network;
5 determining an operating mode of the facsimile device;
6 if the facsimile device is operating according to a first automatic mode of operation, then
7 automatically sending over the network, by facsimile, the data corresponding to the facsimile
8 transmission with captured metadata, to automatically capture facsimile transmission; and
9 if the facsimile device is operating according to a second manual mode of operation, then
10 automatically sending over the network, by facsimile, data corresponding to the facsimile

11 transmission with metadata selectively captured and optionally modified based upon received
12 external input data.

1 13. The method of claim 12, wherein automatically sending the facsimile transmission
2 comprises:

3 generating, without user intervention, metadata representing attributes of the facsimile
4 transmission;

5 encapsulating, without user intervention, the metadata according to one of a plurality of
6 network encapsulation protocols; and

7 transmitting, without user intervention, the encapsulated metadata to a second device
8 indicated by a capture address.

1 14. The method of claim 12, wherein the received external input data indicates to the
2 facsimile device whether the facsimile device should capture the data corresponding to the
3 facsimile transmission.

1 15. The method of claim 12, wherein the received external input data comprises user
2 specified access control and ownership attributes for the data corresponding to the facsimile
3 transmission.

1 16. The method of claim 12, wherein automatically sending data corresponding to the
2 facsimile transmission with selectively captured and optically modified metadata comprises:

generating metadata based upon the content of the data corresponding to the facsimile transmission and the received external input data;
encapsulating the metadata according to one of a plurality of network encapsulation protocols; and
transmitting the encapsulated metadata to a second device indicated by a capture address.

17. A facsimile device comprising:

receiving means for receiving data corresponding to a facsimile transmission;
switching means for selecting between one of a plurality of capture modes, including an automatic capture mode in which the data corresponding to the facsimile transmission is captured without user intervention, and a manual capture mode in which the data corresponding to the facsimile transmission is selectively captured based upon external user input data;
capturing means for automatically or manually capturing the received data corresponding to the facsimile transmission based upon the selected capture mode; and
transmission means for transmitting the captured data corresponding to the facsimile transmission to a second device for archiving thereby.

18. The facsimile device of claim 17, wherein the receiving means comprises at least one a scanning interface means, a network interface means, and a modem interface means.

19. The facsimile device of claim 17, wherein the transmission means comprises at least one of a network interface means, and a modem interface means.

1 20. A network comprising:
2 a facsimile device having a plurality of selectable capture modes to capture electronic
3 documents and transmit the captured electronic documents across the network transparently as
4 part of performing a facsimile transmission or reception of the electronic documents; and
5 an archiving device to receive and store the captured electronic documents.

1 21. The network of claim 20, wherein the facsimile device further comprises:
2 a first automatic capture mode to capture the electronic documents without user
3 intervention; and
4 a second manual capture mode to selectively capture the electronic documents based
5 upon received external input data.